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a control device of a switchgear drive, the control device being one of an open-loop control device and a closed-loop control device, wherein after a switching command, the control device does not affect an output quantity for controlling the coil until at least one predefined threshold value of the actual values of the drive-specific switching parameters is attained, the output quantity being a coil current, the drive-specific switching parameters being variable during a switching operation and including at least one of a contact speed and a flux.

REMARKS

Claims 5-7 are currently pending in the instant application. Independent claim 5 has been amended by way of this amendment. Reconsideration of application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(B)

Claims 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Heider (U.S. Patent No.4,429,342). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 5, as amended, sets forth a combination of limitations including "sensors detecting actual values of drive-specific switching parameters; and...the drive-specific switching parameters being variable during a switching operation including at least one of a contact speed and a flux." Applicants respectfully submit that the relied upon patent document fails to teach or suggest at least these limitations of the rejected independent claim.

The Examiner argues that the relied upon patent document teaches a drive-specific switching gear that is effective operationally due to a control path of an armature. Applicants have amended independent claim 5 to remove the recitation "a contact path." Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the Heider patent document does not teach or suggest the recitation of amended independent claim 5.

With regard to the rejected dependent claims, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable at least due to their dependence upon an allowable independent claim.

In accordance to the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Timothy R. Wyckoff (Reg. No. 46,175) at (703) 390-3030 in the Washington D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

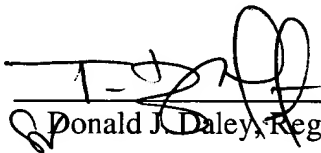
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C

By:

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MARKED UP VERSION OF CLAIM AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS

The following claim has been amended as follows:

5. (Twice Amended) A solenoid system for switchgear, comprising:

an armature;

a yoke;

a coil interacting with the yoke to move the armature;

sensors detecting actual values of drive-specific switching parameters;

and

a control device of a switchgear drive, the control device being one of an open-loop control device and a closed-loop control device, wherein after a switching command, the control device does not affect an output quantity for controlling the coil until at least one predefined threshold value of the actual values of the drive-specific switching parameters is attained, the output quantity being a coil current, the drive-specific switching parameters being variable during a switching operation and including at least one of a contact speed [a contact path] and a flux.